

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hydraulic system, comprising:
 - a hydraulic pressure source;
 - a tank;
 - a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;
 - 5 a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and
 - an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first independently controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load, and a second independently controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load, and a third independently controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow from one of the first and second independently controllable infinitely variable valves to the tank; said first and second independently controllable infinitely variable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,
 - 10 wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve.

2. (currently amended) The A hydraulic system of claim 1, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

5 a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second

10 hydraulic load,; said first and second controllable infinitely variable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve, said first hydraulic load including one of a fan motor and a brake, and said second hydraulic load including the other one of the fan motor and the

15 brake.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 4 , said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve fluidly interconnecting said second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

5. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 1, ~~further comprising a third controllable infinitely variable valve, wherein said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve is disposed between said first hydraulic load and the hydraulic pressure source, and the second independently controllable infinitely variable valve is disposed between said second hydraulic load and the hydraulic pressure source and the third independently controllable~~

infinitely variable valve is disposed structured and arranged to control flow between one of the first or second hydraulic load and the tank.

6. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 5, further comprising a fourth independently controllable infinitely variable valve disposed between the other of said one of the first or second hydraulic loads and said tank.

7. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 1, including a first pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve and a second pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said second independently controllable infinitely variable valve.

Claims 8-20 (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:
- a hydraulic pressure source;
 - a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;
 - a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second
 - 5 hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;
 - an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

10 an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each
of said brakes.

22. (previously presented) A work machine, comprising:

a frame;

a hydraulic system carried by said frame, said hydraulic system including:

a hydraulic pressure source;

5 a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second

hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and

electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet

10 fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic
load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each
of said brakes.

23. (currently amended) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load
and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method
comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first

5 independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly;

communicating the directed fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly; and

- controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a
10 third independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly, the third
independently controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the one of
the first or second hydraulic loads and a tank.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising: controlling
flow downstream of the other of the first or second hydraulic loads through a fourth independently
controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the other of the first or
second hydraulic loads and the tank.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the first, second and
third independently controllable infinitely variable valves are substantially similar.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying
flow between the second control independently controllable infinitely variable valve and the
second load through an adjustable valve disposed therebetween.

27. (currently amended) The A method of claim 23, controlling output of a first
hydraulic load and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve
assembly, the method comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first controllable infinitely variable valve;

communicating fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second controllable infinitely variable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a third controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic load consists of a braking system.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.

29. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load, said first and second

10 controllable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve; and

15 said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve fluidly interconnecting said second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

30. (currently amended) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

20 a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first independently

controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure

25 source and the first hydraulic load, and a second independently controllable valve being structured

and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load,

and a third independently controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to

control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the tank; said first and second controllable

valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a

30 common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve; and

including a first pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said first controllable valve and a second pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said second controllable valve.

35 31. (previously presented) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first
5 controllable valve;

communicating the directed fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second controllable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a third controllable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic
10 loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic load consists of a braking system; and

further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.